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which the author gives the figures as to the number of cases, their nature, and their geographical distribution. Some of the results are these: In the first sixteen years of the Amendment, thirty-five cases in the Supreme Court of the United States, but recently an annual average of about thirty-one a year, the Amendment being at present "the chief source of litigation among all the provisions of the federal Constitution" (p. 28); six hundred and four decisions under it by the United States Supreme Court, twenty-seven being as to eminent domain, one hundred and forty-four as to taxation, one hundred and forty-six as to procedure, and three hundred and two as to police power (pp. 31, 33); only twenty-eight cases in the Supreme Court as to negro race problems (pp. 38, 48); one hundred and seventeen cases from the East, two hundred and eleven from the South, and two hundred from the West, as "the battle-ground of the Amendment is at present in the West and the Southwest" (p. 38). This, however, is a mere skeleton of the results, and the book itself should be referred to for details and also for tables classifying the cases by states, years, and topics. The author's opinion is that the Fourteenth Amendment, in so far as it was intended to elevate the negro race, has been unsuccessful (p. 161), and that in so far as it goes beyond the protection of the negro race it has resulted in unsatisfactory and harmful restrictions upon the states and in excessive litigation in federal courts (p. 163). He suggests that, although repeal is impracticable, there may be an adequate remedy found in statutes, for example, in one limiting the right to writs of error in Fourteenth Amendment cases, or in one providing that no State law shall be overthrown under this Amendment by the Supreme Court of the United States unless the opinion be unanimous (pp. 166, 167).

The book does not deal with the relation of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Fifth Amendment, or to provisions in constitutions of the several states; and it does not present the history of the extension of the phrase "due process of law" to matters outside procedure. In other words, the work does not cover all the possible ground. Yet it does cover, and in a way that is clear and interesting, quite as much ground as is necessary in order to make it worth reading and to justify its full title: "The Fourteenth Amendment and the States — a study of the operation of the restraint clause of section one of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States."

FEDERAL COURTS AND PRACTICE. By John A. Shields. New York: The Banks Publishing Company. 1912. pp. v, 874.

This book is a compilation of information on various disconnected subjects rather than a legal treatise. The first fifty pages are a condensed and somewhat superficial history of the Supreme Court and its Justices. The next one hundred and fifty pages contain a general outline of the statutory organization of inferior federal courts. Part II, containing four hundred pages, is entitled "Trust Prosecutions, Decisions, and Decrees." Voluminous quotations from opinions, pleadings, briefs and arguments of counsel, magazine articles and public speeches, consume more than half of this space.

The following two hundred pages contain what the author terms a "Syllabus of Equity." Here are collected syllabi of equity cases, one following another without explanation and with little regard to logical arrangement. As a rule the decisions from which statements are taken are not cited. This defect prevails throughout the whole book.

The balance of the book embraces a range of subjects, including the statutory organization of various governmental departments and the duties of various officials; also twenty pages of quotations from addresses and political speeches on the subject of "The Recall of Judges."

The information contained in the book is at times incorrect, and the language is in many places so loose and general that it is misleading. It is doubtful if the work will serve any particular purpose.

J. M. B., JR.

TAXATION IN MASSACHUSETTS. By Phillip Nichols. Boston: The Financial Publishing Company. 1913. pp. xlv, 826.

This is an excellent book on a rather obscure but very important subject, by a man whose experience as Assistant Corporation Counsel of the City of Boston has led him to a thorough study of the subject. The principles of the laws of taxation are not generally studied with as great care as many other branches of the law of far less practical importance. In this book Mr. Nichols has dealt with the subject both scientifically and practically. His brief but complete consideration of the limitations of the power of taxation by the Constitution and otherwise, his historical statements on the origin and development of the annual direct tax, the taxation of corporations, the inheritance tax and special assessments, his careful annotation of the statutes, section by section, and his collection of forms make his book a far more valuable one than the ordinary local manual. The book may be equally commended to the lawyers in practice and to the students of taxation in its economic as well as its legal aspects.

J. H. B.